



Missouri WAP Technical Newsletter

DOE Quality Work Plan Updates:

Work Quality and Standard Work Specifications (SWS)

As mandated by The Department of Energy (DOE), Missouri's WAP Technical Manual and Weatherization Field Guide have undergone comprehensive updates in order to align both to the Standard Work Specifications (SWS). The SWS were developed to provide uniform weatherization standards nation-wide. The specifications reflect the minimum requirements necessary to ensure that work performed during weatherization is effective, durable, and safe. Copies of Missouri's SWS aligned Technical Manual and Field Guide were distributed to subgrantee staff during the technical training in September. A PDF version of the Technical Manual was distributed to subgrantees as an attachment to an email sent September 18, 2014. Additional copies can be printed from that version as needed. Additional Field Guides and copies of the SWS are available from DED/DE upon request.

Inspection and Monitoring of Work Using the SWS

Beginning July 1, 2015, all units reported to DOE as completed must be inspected and signed off by a certified quality control inspector (QCI) to ensure compliance with the specifications outlined in the SWS. Currently, there are 24 fully certified QCIs in Missouri's WAP network. Eleven subgrantees have at least one QCI at this time. Personnel who are planning to complete QCI certification but have not yet challenged the test are encouraged to do so well in advance of the July 1st deadline.

QCI Recertification Requirements

Quality Control Inspectors will be required to renew their certifications every three years. In order to be eligible for recertification, candidates must have accumulated a minimum of **10** qualifying continuing education units (CEU's) **per year** over the three years of certification. When the minimum CEU requirement is met the candidates must successfully complete the field exam that is current at the time of renewal. Candidates who do not meet the CEU requirement must successfully retake **both** the written and field exams that are current at the time of renewal. You can get additional information regarding the Quality Control Inspector recertification at: http://www.bpi.org/professionals_advanced.aspx

Technical Updates and Reminders:

Mandatory Measures

Mandatory measures listed in Table XI-I of the Technical Manual (page 154) are required to be evaluated on every home. Only those measures which cannot be installed due to legitimate reasons, such as health and safety concerns, may be removed or omitted from the computerized audit. If any mandatory measure is not evaluated, a comprehensive explanation outlining why the measure was not evaluated must be included in the client file. All heating systems **must** be evaluated for replacement as an energy conservation measure. All electric furnaces must be evaluated for replacement with a heat pump. If a measure is evaluated and does not return an SIR of 1.0 or higher, the measure should be removed from the computerized audit as an ECM and the audit should be rerun to verify the cost effectiveness of other measures and the cumulative SIR of the home.

Attic and Kneewall Access

If any work is performed in the attic of a home, an attic access must be left for inspection purposes. If there are no interior accesses, at least one exterior access to each attic space shall be left for inspection purposes.

Incidental Repair Measures (IRM)

DOE defines incidental repairs as "those repairs necessary for the effective performance or preservation of weatherization materials." Incidental repairs must be directly tied to an Energy Conservation Measure (ECM). An incidental repair justification form must be completed and included in the client file. The form must state what ECM the IRM is tied to and how the IRM will protect or ensure the effective performance of the ECM that it is tied to. During the recent second semester monitoring visits, we have found numerous occasions where infiltration reduction measures were completed as incidental repairs. An example of an acceptable incidental repair tied to infiltration reduction would be: If weather stripping is added to a door as an infiltration reduction, then moving a strike plate may be a necessary incidental repair to ensure the effectiveness of the weather stripping.

Bubble Wrap Insulation

Per DED/DE standards, bubble wrap insulation does not provide the necessary R-Value for insulating ducts or water heaters and should not be used in these applications. Ducts should be insulated to a minimum of R-8 and water heaters to a minimum of R-11. Although bubble-wrap insulation is commonly labeled as R-6, the R-value is an exaggerated value of an assembly that includes an adjacent air space. The bubble wrap itself generally has an R-Value of approximately 1.0. The following links contain related information:

<http://www.greenbuildingadvisor.com/blogs/dept/musings/stay-away-foil-faced-bubble-wrap>

<http://www.greenbuildingadvisor.com/blogs/dept/qa-spotlight/bubble-wrap-duct-insulation-good-idea>

Oil-Fired Furnaces and Packaged Heat and Cooling Systems

Oil fired furnaces and all Packaged units are exempt from certain requirements stated in the Technical Manual Section III, Subsection D: Heating System Replacement which states that all forced air furnaces installed by the WAP program must be "sealed-combustion, direct-vent, high-efficiency condensing units with an AFUE of 90% or higher". Oil-fired heating systems must be direct vent (sealed combustion) units; however, a direct vent oil-fired forced air furnace with an AFUE of 85 percent or greater is in compliance with the WAP. Package units are not required to be sealed combustion/direct vent units.

Training:

DED/DE staff is available per subgrantees request for training on DED/DE policy and procedures and NEAT/MHEA training. Contact DED/DE technical staff to request training as needed.

The DED/DE highly encourages all weatherization staff to attend additional trainings, to help provide high quality service to the clients of the WAP. See the following link for the most updated training providers and available classes: ([http://ded.mo.gov/division-of-energy/weatherization/low-income-weatherization-assistance-program-\(liwap\)](http://ded.mo.gov/division-of-energy/weatherization/low-income-weatherization-assistance-program-(liwap))) . For training on NEAT and MHEA use the following link: <http://www.weatherizationassistanttraining.org> .

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